

Serial No.: 10/806,620  
Art Unit: 2188

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

Serial No.: 10/806,620  
Art Unit: 2188

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance comprised of a first interface for being coupled to a host and a second interface for being coupled to a virtual storage device, said storage appliance further comprising a controller operating in accordance with a computer program comprised of program instructions stored on a controller readable media, said program instructions comprised of:

first program instructions to generate a set of parameter-tuples, each parameter-tuple of the set comprising a data unit and a different combination of a data size parameter and a block parameter;

second program instructions, responsive to each parameter-tuple in the set of parameter-tuples, to perform a write operation to the virtual storage device with the parameter-tuple as write parameters, and to make and record a performance measurement of the write operation; and

third program instructions to identify a parameter-tuple associated with a write operation having a best recorded performance measurement, and to configure the storage appliance such that a value of a stripe size attribute associated with the virtual storage device is set to the value of the data size parameter of the identified parameter-tuple, and such that a value of a stripe alignment attribute associated with the virtual storage device is set to the value of the block parameter of the identified parameter-tuple.

14. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where configuring the storage appliance results in the storage appliance performing stripe aligned write operations using a storage appliance memory as a cache.

15. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where making a performance measurement comprises measuring an amount of time required to complete the write operation.

Serial No.: 10/806,620  
Art Unit: 2188

16. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where identifying the parameter-tuple associated with the write operation having the best recorded performance measurement comprises identifying the write operation that takes a least amount of time to complete.
17. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where said virtual storage device comprises a RAID storage system that includes a RAID controller coupled to a plurality of storage devices.
18. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where said storage appliance comprises a part of a switch of a storage area network.
19. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, where at least said second and third program instructions are executed when said storage appliance is otherwise idle.
20. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, further comprising a memory for being coupled to said virtual storage device, where said memory comprises a cache.
21. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, further comprising a memory for being coupled to said virtual storage device, where said memory comprises an input buffer.
22. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 13, further comprising a memory for being coupled to said virtual storage device, where said memory comprises an output buffer.
23. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance comprised of a first interface for being coupled to a host and a second interface for being coupled to a virtual storage device, said storage appliance further being comprised of means for generating a set of parameter-tuples, each parameter-tuple of the set comprising a data unit and a different combination of a data size parameter and a block parameter; means, responsive to each parameter-tuple in the set of parameter-tuples, for performing a write operation to the virtual storage device with the parameter-tuple as write parameters, and for making and recording a performance measurement of the write operation;

Serial No.: 10/806,620  
Art Unit: 2188

and means for identifying a parameter-tuple associated with a write operation having a best recorded performance measurement, and for configuring the storage appliance such that a value of a stripe size attribute associated with the virtual storage device is set to the value of the data size parameter of the identified parameter-tuple, and such that a value of a stripe alignment attribute associated with the virtual storage device is set to the value of the block parameter of the identified parameter-tuple.

24. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 23, where operation of said means for configuring the storage appliance results in the storage appliance performing stripe aligned write operations using a storage appliance memory as a cache.

25. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 23, where said means for making a performance measurement measures an amount of time required to complete the write operation.

26. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 23, where said means for identifying the parameter-tuple associated with the write operation having the best recorded performance measurement operates to identify the write operation that takes a least amount of time to complete.

27. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 23, where said virtual storage device comprises a RAID storage system that includes a RAID controller coupled to a plurality of storage devices.

28. (Previously Presented) A storage appliance as in claim 23, where said storage appliance comprises a part of a switch of a storage area network.